

# ***TOWN COUNCIL WEEKLY STATUS REPORT***

August 27, 2015

**MSD** Volume 23, No. 35

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the Town Council Personnel and Appointments Committee meeting has been cancelled.
- Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, Town Council, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Town Council/ City Council/ Board of Education/ RTM Liaison Committee, 5:30 p.m., Administration Office, Room 11
- Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Economic Development Commission, 4:45 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Permanent School Building Committee, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1

## **ANNUAL CLOTHING DRIVE**

The Annual Children's Clothing Event held at Human Services on August 14<sup>th</sup> served over 200 local children. The basement of the Human Services building was filled with eager children and parents who selected from a wide variety of free clothing donated by the community. Volunteers from Christ United Methodist Church sorted and organized the clothing and monitored the event, which encompassed a full day from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Any clothing that remained following the event was donated to Malta for its homeless mission.

## **BACKPACK PROGRAM**

Human Services' Back-to-School Backpack Program has given out 97 free backpacks filled with school supplies as of August 26<sup>th</sup>, and more are anticipated to be distributed as additional eligible families request assistance. The department anticipates providing backpacks and supplies well into September. Donations of new backpacks and school supplies are always welcome and may be dropped off at the Human Services building anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## STORM READY RECOGNITION

The National Weather Service (NWS) recently extended the Town of Groton's Storm Ready Recognition status for a three year renewal period that extends through September 4, 2018. Please see Attachment 1. The recognition is due to the Town's continued hard work in preparing for, monitoring, and responding to high impact weather events. For the latest information on the NWS Storm Ready Program please visit the website at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready>.

## OTHER ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 2 is an invitation from the Groton Police Department to attend the appointment ceremony of Louis J. "L.J." Fusaro, Jr. on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center.
2. Attachment 3 is notification from Connecticut Mission of Mercy of their free dental clinic at East Lyme High School on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 a.m. This clinic will be held on a first come, first served basis with no eligibility or income requirements. Please see the attachment for more information.

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORTS

### 1. Office of Planning and Development (June)

- Staff met with officials from DEEP to discuss the Merritt Property as a proposed school site.
- Planning staff from the City and Town met to discuss how to best work together while improving communication between departments.
- Staff attended a two-day conference regarding energy efficiency and micro grids for energy use.
- Staff continued work with representatives from DEEP, the Avery-Copp House, City of Groton and the City of New London on creating a transition team for the purposes of forming a non-profit to work on managing Thames River Heritage Park.
- Planning Commission approved a site plan for a 30,000 square foot industrial building at 245 Leonard Drive.

- There were 62 building permits, 29 electrical permits, 14 plumbing permits and 34 mechanical permits issued.
- There were 46 sign violations issued.

MRO/lh



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

National Weather Service  
Bldg. NWS1  
175 Brookhaven Ave.  
Upton, NY 11973

August 18, 2015

Joseph Sastre, Emergency Management Director  
Office of Emergency Management  
68 Groton Long Point Road  
Groton, CT 06340

Dear Joseph,

This letter is to inform you that the National Weather Service (NWS) New York, NY Office has extended the Town of Groton's StormReady Recognition status. This second "3 year renewal period" covers from September 4, 2015 until September 4, 2018.

The NWS sincerely appreciates your extended active participation in the StormReady Program since 2009 under our Weather Ready Nation initiative. We value our close working relationship.

Enclosed is an updated StormReady certificate, acknowledging your Town's hard work in preparing for, monitoring, and responding to high impact weather events.

For the latest information on the NWS StormReady Program, visit the StormReady Web Site at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready>

Once again, congratulations on your second "3-year StormReady Recognition Renewal."

If you have any questions about this program, please contact my Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Gary Conte via e-mail at [gary.conte@noaa.gov](mailto:gary.conte@noaa.gov) or by telephone at (631) 924-0593 ext. 223.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Ross Dickman".

I. Ross Dickman  
Meteorologist in Charge, NWS New York





THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE NEW YORK, NEW YORK OFFICE

RECOGNIZES

**The Town of Groton, Connecticut**  
As  
***Storm Ready***

September 2009-2018

*The close partnership between the National Weather Service and the Town of Groton Office of Emergency Management will save lives and protect property in Groton, Connecticut.*

I. Ross Dickman, Meteorologist In Charge  
National Weather Service, New York, NY



*The Town of Groton Police Department  
cordially invites you to attend  
the ceremony for the appointment of  
Chief Louis J. "L.J." Fusaro, Jr.  
Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.  
Groton Senior Center  
102 Newtown Road  
Groton, CT 06340.*



# Free Dental Care!



**East Lyme High School**

**30 Chesterfield Road**

**East Lyme, CT 06333**

**October 10-11, 2015**

CONNECTICUT  
MISSION of MERCY  
Free Dental Clinic



Caring for One Another

**No Eligibility or Income Requirements**

**\*This clinic is for the underserved and uninsured patients who live in the Southeast area of Connecticut**

**No Appointments – First come, First Served  
Children and Adults**

**Services Include:**

**Cleanings  
Extractions  
Fillings  
Fluoride Treatments  
X-rays**

**Doors Open at  
6:00 AM**

**For more information: Visit our website [www.cfdo.org](http://www.cfdo.org)**



A Project of the Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach

# OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

June 2015

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Deborah Jones, the Town of Groton's Environmental Planner for more than 25 years has been hired as the Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services. Deb will oversee the Planning Division day-to-day activities, work on the long-range planning projects and will continue to staff the Inland Wetlands Agency and other land use commissions.

Staff met with officials from DEEP to discuss the use of the Merritt Property for a new school. The Town is currently researching alternative sites for future recreation use to offset the proposed school site.

Jon Reiner, Director of OPDS and Rick Norris, Project Manager, attended a 2-day NEMSN conference regarding energy efficiency and micro grids for energy use. They heard from industry experts and toured a number of facilities. They were able to visit two micro grids as well as a tour of a home that underwent a deep energy retrofit. This information will be applicable to both commercial and residential applications in Groton.

Planning staff from the City and Town met to discuss how they can work together and how to improve communication between the two departments. Together, we are beginning to work on documents that would clearly communicate the different approval processes within the town and city.

Emulsion Printhouse, a small screen printing business who lost their Stonington location to a fire, reopened at 1360 Gold Star Highway. The process, from the first preliminary meeting to approval, took less than three weeks.

## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Thames River Heritage Park

Staff worked with representatives from the Avery-Copp House, City of Groton and New London to continue creating a transition team for the purpose of forming a new non-profit to work with DEEP to manage the park.

A sub-committee prepared an Urban Act bond request for Phase I implementation of the Heritage Park, which includes a signage plan, graphic and content development for signs, outreach and engagement for Heritage Park sites and marketing. Staff worked with Representative Bumgardner and Senator Maynard's staff regarding the funding request for water taxi operations.

### Mystic Education Center

Staff reviewed the proposal received from VHB/Camoin Associates and made the decision to move forward with a portion of the proposal which will review zoning and other relevant studies/material as well as to conduct a market opportunity analysis for the property. The town will receive recommendations on potential best uses and

whether or not this site should be considered an opportunity area for new development or if development efforts should be concentrated elsewhere.

### Business Outreach

Staff attended the CT Biz Expo at CT convention center on June 4<sup>th</sup> where she met with representatives from Connecticut-based businesses and property owners to promote Groton.

Land Use Applications	This Month	Calendar Year to Date
Site Plans	2	7
Subdivisions	1	5
Inland Wetland Permits	1	6
Special Permits	1	2
Regulation/Map Amendments	0	1
Variances/Appeals	3	11
Cert. of Appr. of Location	0	0
Coastal Site Plans	1	6
Administrative Site Plans	4	11
Land Use Applications Submitted	13	49

## COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

**Planning Commission** approved a site plan for a 30,000 SF industrial building at 245 Leonard Drive. They also approved a one lot subdivision off of Route 215 that they had previously denied for lack of access.

**Inland Wetlands Agency** approved a permit for detention basin modifications at Doncasters. The permit addresses the disposition of historically contaminated soil on the site. This permit is part of an application to add three small additions to the manufacturing facility.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** denied a use variance request which would have allowed living accommodation for 192 disabled individuals consistent with the definition of Hotel/Motel at 40 High Rock Road. The applicant has appealed this decision.



## INSPECTION SERVICES DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ Total building fees collected for FYE 2015 less reimbursements: \$242,232
- ◇ A building permit was issued for a new boathouse at Maxwell Boatyard located at 135 Pearl Street, Noank.
- ◇ A permit for a tenant fit-out and a Certificate of Occupancy were issued for a new fast food restaurant located at 928 Poquonnock Road.
- ◇ Certificates of Occupancy were issued for a wine bar/restaurant and an art gallery at 15 Water Street.

ITEM	RECEIVED IN JUNE	CALENDAR 2015 TOTAL
BUILDING PERMITS	62	254
ELECTRICAL PERMITS	29	155
PLUMBING PERMITS	14	78
MECHANICAL PERMITS	34	143
SPRINKLER PERMIT	0	4
MOBILE HOME PERMITS	1	4
ESTIMATED VALUE	1,736,000	
RESIDENTIAL PERMITS ISSUED—NEW	1	10
ESTIMATED VALUE	150,000	1,316,900
RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS	44	175
NEW COMMERCIAL PERMITS	1	2
COMMERCIAL ADDITIONS	3	28
SIGNS	0	3
POOL PERMITS	1	5
SHED PERMITS	5	17
SINGLE FAMILY/DUPLEX UNITS APPROVED	3	5
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED (less reimbursements)	19,233	
CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED	16	43
UNITS CONNECTED TO TOWN SEWER	3	14
HDC CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS	6	18
<b>CODE ENFORCEMENT</b>		
SIGN VIOLATIONS	46	138
VEHICLES/WASTE	1	9
OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS	2	8
PENDING LITIGATION	0	0
CASES RESOLVED	0	6